

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07275.0030-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Karen E. Kimball et al.) Group Art Unit: 2665
)
Application No.: 10/038,579) Examiner: Alpus HSU
)
Filed: January 8, 2002)
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
AUTOMATIC LOAD-BALANCING)
ON MULTISEGMENT DEVICES)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-SB-08 Form. Applicants submit this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-identified application.

Applicants attach a copy of each listed document, except for the listed U.S. Patent. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate their consideration by making an appropriate notation on the attached form.

The listed documents were cited in a communication from the European Patent Office issued in a counterpart foreign application on February 16, 2006. This IDS is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication. A copy of that communication is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 21, 2006

By: Kara F. Stoll
Kara F. Stoll
Reg. No. 41,484

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/038,579		
		Filing Date	January 8, 2002		
		First Named Inventor	Karen E. Kimball		
		Art Unit	2665		
		Examiner Name	Alpus HSU		
		Attorney Docket Number	07275.0030-01		
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-5,432,907	07-11-1995	Picazo, Jr. et al.	
		US-			<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">RECEIVED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">MAR 22 2006</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-5deg);">OFFICE OF PETITIONS</div>
		US-			
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		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		EP 0 615 362	09-14-1994	Hewlett-Packard Company	
		EP 0 460 843	12-11-1991	American Telephone and Telegraph Company	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		European Search Report dated February 16, 2006 in European Patent Application No. 02080440	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.